

Gun Deer Hunter Questionnaire 2004

By Brian Dhuey

Abstract

The 2004 gun deer season provided active hunters with over three million days of hunter recreation. Hunter participation and hunter days afield did not significantly differ from the 2003 deer season ($P=0.18$, $P=0.36$). Gun deer hunters averaged 5.3 days a field during the 2004 season. The majority of gun deer hunting took place on private lands (69%). The Northern Forest, Eastern Farmland, and Southern Farmland regions of the state experienced the most hunter days. Ninety-seven percent of all respondents hunted the 2004 "Regular" gun deer season. Forty-six percent of the respondents who actively hunted in 2004 killed a deer.

Methods

A survey was mailed to approximately 10,000 gun deer hunters after the completion of the 2004 gun deer season. The sample was drawn from the 2004 license sales, which had gun deer authority, in proportion to license sales for each county. The questionnaire included specific questions about the days and units in which gun deer hunters hunted as well as the type of land hunted (private, public, or industrial). A second mailing of 5,000 questionnaires was sent to non-respondents. Data from all returned questionnaires were entered into the DNR UNIX production server and summarized using the Statistical Analysis System (SAS).

Results

Responses were received from 4,012 of 10,000 hunters surveyed. After duplicates were removed, the resulting response rate was 40%. In 2004, 97.2% of hunters who purchased a license hunted during the 9-day season (Table 1). Forty-six percent of the respondents who actively hunted killed a deer (antlered or antlerless) during the 2004 season. These numbers are similar to the 2003 season where 97.6% of the license holders hunted and 47% of those killed a deer.

Wisconsin again held an early antlerless only deer season prior to the opening of the regular gun deer season. Thirty-six percent of the regular season hunters hunted in this season. Hunters were also asked if they planned on hunting any of the Chronic Wasting Disease herd reduction seasons that either proceeded/followed the regular gun deer season. Sixteen percent of license holders planned on taking part in these special seasons. Most hunters (78%) said that they would shoot an antlerless deer if their unit were a special antlerless deer unit next year.

Hunters were asked several questions about the discovery of CWD in the wild deer herd and how it has or may effect their hunting. Hunters were asked about how concerned they were about the health of the deer herd. Twelve percent were "Extremely concerned", 25% were "Not at all concerned", while the rest were "Slightly Concerned" or "Moderately Concerned". The majority of hunters felt that the DNR's plan to eliminate CWD in the deer herd has been "About right". Most hunters said that they would continue to hunt in the same area if CWD were found in their current hunt area. Hunter's #1 concern about CWD was the "Potential effect of eating a CWD infected deer" closely followed by the "Potential effect of CWD on the deer herd". The next most commonly stated concern was the "Potential effect of CWD on my Wisconsin deer

hunting” and lastly the “Potential effect of CWD on the Wisconsin economy”.

Fifteen percent of hunters surveyed anticipated hunting the 2004 muzzleloader season that immediately follows the gun deer season. This is the same as the 2003 season.

When the results of this survey were expanded to the larger population of licensed gun deer hunters, the number of active hunters in 2004 was estimated at 631,756. This is an increase from the estimated 630,404 hunters that hunted the 2003 season. The 2004 gun deer season (20 - 28 Nov.) provided these hunters with approximately 3.2 million days of hunting recreation. This is an increase of about 66,000 hunter days from 2003 levels. Some of this increase in hunter activity can be attributed to the increase in license sales and hunter participation as fears of CWD subside and hunters return to the field.

Gun deer hunters averaged 5.3 days a field in 2004, this is a slight increase from the 5.2 days a field observed in 2003. Most hunter days were spent in the Northern Forest (34%), Eastern Farmland (22%), and Southern Farmland (20%) regions of Wisconsin (Figure 1). The remaining hunter days were spent in the Western Farmland and Central Forest regions, 15% and 8% respectively. Much of this distribution is in relation to the amount of deer habitat in each region. Sixty-nine percent of hunter days were spent on private lands (Table 1). Public lands (about 20% of the State's deer range) provided approximately 683,000 hunter days of recreation (21% of hunter days). This is similar to the 653,000 hunter days on public land in 2003. The rest of the hunter days were spent on Industrial forest, Forest Tax, or a mixture of land ownership types.

Hunters were asked how they obtained access to private land on the opening day of the gun deer season. Eighty-eight percent of the respondents either owned the land themselves, hunted on land owned by a relative or family member, or hunted on a friend's or neighbor's land.

Most hunters (83%) felt the deer population was “about the same” or “went down” from last year. Hunters were asked to rate the overall quality of their 2004 gun deer season. Fourteen percent rated their hunt “Very High” or “Fairly High”. Thirty-four percent rated their hunt “About Average”, while 52% rated it “Fairly Low” to “Very Low”. Successful hunters rated their hunt “Very High” or “Fairly High” 22% of the time, while unsuccessful hunters rated their hunt “Very High” or “Fairly High” 7% of the time.

Hunters were asked to rate the factors having the most influence on their perception of a “quality” deer hunt. “Seeing deer” was the most important factor effecting the hunter's perception of a “quality” hunt. The second most important factor was “Spending time with friends and family”. The least important factor effecting a hunter's perception of a “quality” hunt was the weather. Thirty-eight percent of the hunters said they passed on shooting a “legal buck” during the season. Despite many units in the state having an “Earn-a-Buck” requirement, the most common reason for passing on a buck was “Too small” and not “Not allowed to by Earn-a-Buck rules”.

Hunters were asked what factors, if any, limited the number of antlerless deer they shot. Thirty-six percent of the respondents said that they “Did not see any more deer” to shoot. The second most common factor limiting their antlerless harvest was “Did not want to reduce the deer herd any more”. The least stated factor was “No place to donate the deer” and “Limited by the landowner”.

Hunters were asked if they hunted in a county that had a baiting ban. Thirty-three percent hunted in a county with a ban. Hunters were asked how the ban on baiting deer affected their hunting in 2004. Most hunters felt it had no effect (54.1%). The hunters who did say the baiting ban affected hunting were slightly in favor of "Negative" (24.5%) than "Positive" (18.5%) effects.

Most hunters did not submit their deer head for CWD testing. The ones that did predominantly used the DNR process to do so. Very few hunters submitted a sample for their deer via another process.

Table 1. *Answers to the 2004 gun deer hunter questionnaire.*

Question 1. What area(s) of the state did you do most of your gun deer hunting in? (Please check **ALL** that apply)

Answer	# of Responses	Percent (%)
Intensive Harvest Zone	341	4.0%
Herd Reduction Zone	1,004	11.9%
Outstate (in the rest of the state)	7,029	83.2%
Did not hunt	70	0.8%

Question 2. What type(s) of hunting license(s) did you purchase for your own use this season? (Please check **ALL** that apply)
(Percentages based on 3,979 questionnaire responses)

Answer	# of Responses	Percent (%)
Sports	670	16.8%
Small Game	678	17.0%
Deer	2,746	69.0%
Bear	146	3.7%
Archery	1,012	25.4%
Patron	654	16.4%

Question 3. What is your county of residence?

Answer	# of Responses	Percent (%)
Northern Forest	468	12.4%
Western Farmland	574	15.2%
Central Forest	196	5.2%
Eastern Farmland	978	25.9%
Southern Farmland	1568	41.4%

No Answer = 202

Question 4. Did you hunt the **early** antlerless only gun deer season in Zone T Units (28-31 Oct.)?

Answer	# of Responses	Percent (%)
Yes	1,434	36.3%
No	2,516	63.7%

No Answer = 29

Question 5. Do you plan on hunting the **late** antlerless only gun deer season in Zone T Units (9-12 Dec.)?

Answer	# of Responses	Percent (%)
Yes	987	25.2%
No	2,936	74.8%
No Answer = 56		

Question 6. Do you plan on hunting the extended seasons (Oct. 28 – 31) in the Disease Eradication Zone? (See Map)

Answer	# of Responses	Percent (%)
Yes	216	5.5%
No	3,711	94.5%
No Answer = 52		

Question 7. Do you plan on hunting the extended seasons (Nov. 20 - Jan. 3) in the Herd Reduction Zone? (See Map)

Answer	# of Responses	Percent (%)
Yes	395	10.0%
No	3,541	90.0%
No Answer = 43		

Question 8. If your unit is a special antlerless deer unit next year, would you shoot an antlerless deer?

Answer	# of Responses	Percent (%)
Yes	3,010	78.0%
No	848	22.0%
No Answer = 121		

Question 9. Do you plan on hunting the 2004 muzzleloader season, which immediately follows the 2004 **"Regular"** 9-day gun deer season?

Answer	# of Responses	Percent (%)
Yes	602	15.3%
No	3,335	84.7%
No Answer = 42		

Question 10. With CWD in Wisconsin's deer herd, how concerned are you **currently** about the health of the deer herd? (Check only one)

Answer	# of Responses	Percent (%)
Not at all concerned	980	24.8%
Slightly concerned	1,537	38.9%
Moderately concerned	976	24.7%
Extremely concerned	455	11.5%

No Answer = 31

Question 11. The Wisconsin DNR's plan to eliminate CWD in the deer herd has been: (Check only one)

Answer	# of Responses	Percent (%)
Not aggressive enough	524	13.4%
About right	1,438	36.8%
Too aggressive	633	16.2%
I don't know enough about the plan to have an opinion	1,311	33.6%

No Answer = 73

Question 12. If CWD were found in the area you currently hunt, what would you do? (Check only one)

Answer	# of Responses	Percent (%)
Keep on hunting the area I currently hunt	3,068	78.5%
Keep on hunting in Wisconsin, but move to an area that was CWD free	469	12.0%
Give up deer hunting in Wisconsin, but hunt in another state	143	3.7%
Give up all deer hunting	228	5.8%

No Answer = 71

Question 13. What is your #1 concern about CWD in Wisconsin? (Check only one)

Answer	# of Responses	Percent (%)
Potential effect of CWD on the deer herd	1,278	33.7%
Potential effect of eating a CWD infected deer	1,478	39.0%
Potential effect of CWD on my Wisconsin deer hunting	805	21.2%
Potential effect of CWD on the Wisconsin economy	230	6.1%

No Answer = 188

Question 14. Did you hunt the "**Regular**" 9-day gun deer season of Nov. 20 –28?

Answer	# of Responses	Percent (%)
Yes	3,843	97.2%
No	111	2.8%

No Answer = 25

Question 15. How many days did you hunt during the 2003 "**Regular**" 9-day gun deer season? (Do not include days hunted during the early antlerless only or muzzleloader seasons.) Mean days hunted = 5.3.

Answer	# of Responses	Percent (%)
1	107	2.8%
2	421	11.0%
3	444	11.6%
4	531	13.9%
5	617	16.2%
6	474	12.4%
7	429	11.2%
8	247	6.5%
9	549	14.4%

No Answer = 24

Question 16. How many **antlerless** deer permits did you receive this season? Mean number of permits = 1.6.

Answer	# of Responses	Percent (%)
None	506	13.5%
1	1,536	41.0%
2	1,232	32.9%
>2	472	12.6%

No Answer = 96

Question 17. How many deer did you register during the 2004 "Regular" gun deer hunting season?

Answer	Mean Registered
Antlerless	0.44
Antlered	0.29

Question 17a. If you hunted deer with a gun this past season, fill in the table below.

Write in the management unit number for each day you hunted. If you hunted in more than one unit on a given day, list only the unit in which you spent the most time. Also, please specify the type of land on which you hunted.

Date 2004	Regions Where Hunters Hunted (# of hunter days)					Total
	Northern Forest	Western Farmland	Central Forest	Eastern Farmland	Southern Farmland	
Nov. 20	207,058	82,560	54,601	124,005	122,689	590,913
Nov. 21	200,151	78,284	50,490	118,577	113,150	560,652
Nov. 22	138,148	41,116	27,794	60,193	52,463	319,714
Nov. 23	107,229	35,688	18,749	50,654	44,240	256,560
Nov. 24	93,415	39,471	17,597	56,411	47,859	254,753
Nov. 25	91,605	50,654	20,393	84,205	70,225	317,082
Nov. 26	102,953	52,792	25,163	81,573	71,377	333,858
Nov. 27	98,348	54,273	26,150	78,284	73,515	330,570
Nov. 28	71,048	43,583	18,255	68,581	66,607	268,074
Total	1,109,955	478,421	259,192	722,483	662,125	3,232,176

Deer Management Unit Group	Land Type Hunters Hunted (# of hunter days)					Total
	Private	Public	Industrial	Forest Tax	Mixed	
A	35,542	40,972	7,075	5,101	10,531	99,221
B	59,565	45,579	3,785	2,139	12,670	123,738
C	55,781	58,743	10,037	6,582	18,758	149,901
D	132,130	58,578	5,101	10,860	23,859	230,528
E	29,947	48,212	2,139	2,304	3,126	85,728
F	59,895	47,718	6,417	6,417	14,974	135,421
G	27,644	54,794	6,582	11,683	14,645	115,348
H	59,730	85,399	823	3,785	4,772	154,509
J	183,139	29,947	658	3,291	11,025	228,060
K	643,702	46,402	5,430	4,607	22,543	722,684
L	147,926	89,513	2,304	4,114	15,467	259,324
M	501,206	28,137	494	3,291	16,290	549,418
N	308,358	48,870	0	1,645	19,581	378,454
Total	2,244,565	682,864	50,845	65,819	188,241	3,232,334

Question 18. If you hunted privately owned land on **OPENING DAY** of gun deer season, how did you obtain access to the land? (Please check ONE.)

Answer	# of Responses	Percent (%)
I own the land.	1,013	36.4%
I lease the land.	104	3.7%
I hunted land owned by a relative or member of my family.	880	31.6%
I hunted on a friend's or neighbor's land.	550	19.7%
I obtained permission from a non-related landowner.	209	7.5%
I hunted unposted private land.	11	0.4%
Other (please describe):	20	0.7%

No Answer = 1,056

Question 19. In your hunting area, how have deer numbers changed from the last year? (Check Only One)

Answer	# of Responses	Percent (%)
Deer numbers went up	264	6.9%
Deer numbers went down	1,942	51.0%
About the same	1,216	31.9%
I did not hunt the same area as last year	124	3.3%
Unsure	263	6.9%

No Answer = 34

Question 20. Overall, how would you rate the quality of your 2004 **"Regular"** 9-day gun deer hunt? (Check Only One.)

Answer	# of Responses	Percent (%)
Very High	180	4.7%
Fairly High	351	9.2%
About Average	1,284	33.7%
Fairly Low	1,052	27.6%
Very Low	943	24.7%

No Answer = 32

Question 21. Please rate the factors that most influence your perception of a “quality” deer hunt. Enter a value of 1 to 7 next to each statement, with “1” having the most effect and “7” having the least effect on you hunting experience.

Factor influencing hunt	% That ranked it “1” (having the most influence)*	Mean value of response
An opportunity to kill a deer	27.5%	3.24
Seeing deer	45.3%	2.49
Seeing bucks	30.4%	3.09
Weather	11.8%	4.53
Not seeing other hunters	16.5%	4.25
Spending time with friends and family	45.2%	2.81
Killing a deer	18.0%	4.18

* Many hunters rated multiple factors as having the most influence so the column total will not equal 100%.

Question 22. Did you pass on shooting a legal buck?

Answer	# of Responses	Percent (%)
Yes	1,437	37.9%
No	2,350	62.1%

No Answer = 56

Question 22a. If yes, what factors entered into your decision? (Check ALL)

Answer	# of Responses	Percent (%)
Too Small	774	45.4%
Deer not in a safe direction for shot	148	8.7%
Concerned over deer diseases	6	0.4%
Not allowed to by Earn-a-Buck rules	420	24.6%
Deer not positioned for sure shot	284	16.7%
Did not want more venison	61	3.6%
Equipment malfunction	11	0.6%

Question 23. What factors, if any, limited the number of antlerless deer you shot this fall?

Answer	# of Responses	Percent (%)
Limited by the landowner	73	1.6%
Cost of deer processing	163	3.5%
Not enough freezer space	139	3.0%
Did not want any more deer	590	12.6%
No place to donate the deer	37	0.8%
Opposed to shooting does	355	7.6%
Did not want to reduce the deer herd any more	637	13.6%
Not enough time to hunt	347	7.4%
Did not see any more deer	1,682	36.0%
None	648	13.9%

Question 24. How many deer do you and your immediate family eat in one year?

Mean = 2.0

Question 25. Did you hunt in one of the 23 counties that had a ban on bait?

Answer	# of Responses	Percent (%)
Yes	1,109	33.2%
No	2,232	66.8%

No Answer = 502

Question 25a. What effect, if any, did the ban on bait have on your hunt? (Please check **ONLY** one.)

Answer	# of Responses	Percent (%)
Positive – deer moving more naturally	185	18.5%
Neutral – little bait is used where I hunt regardless of the ban	416	41.6%
Neutral – area used to be baited, but didn't affect me	125	12.5%
Negative – I was not as successful as when baiting was legal	245	24.5%
No change – area still baited (illegally)	30	3.0%

Question 26. Did you submit a deer head for Chronic Wasting Disease testing?

Answer	# of Responses	Percent (%)
No	3,681	96.7%
Yes, through the DNR sampling process	119	3.1%
Yes, through a veterinarian	4	0.1%

No Answer = 38

Question 27. On a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being the best and 1 being the worst, rate your overall satisfaction with deer hunting in Wisconsin? (Circle One)

Mean = 5.9

Answer	# of Responses	Percent (%)
1	259	6.8%
2	187	4.9%
3	324	8.5%
4	313	8.2%
5	543	14.2%
6	377	9.9%
7	539	14.1%
8	694	18.2%
9	286	7.5%
10	300	7.9%

No Answer = 21

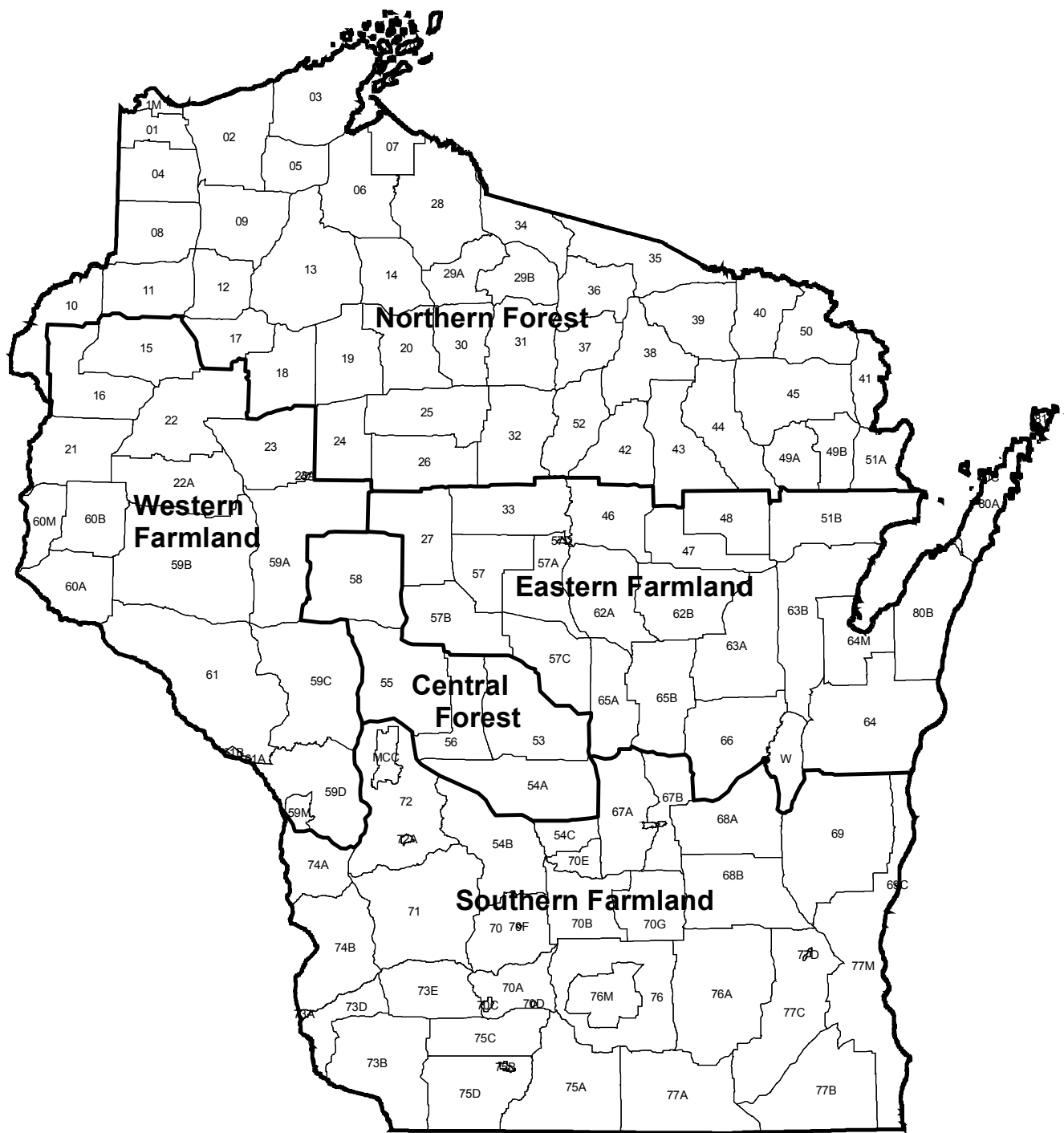


Figure 1. Deer management units grouped by region.

2004 Gun Deer Hunting Questionnaire

s. 23.09(2)(k), Wis. Stats.
Form 2300-043 (R 9/04)

Dear Fellow Deer Hunter:

By completing and returning this survey, you are an integral part of the DNR deer management program. Responses to this survey are voluntary and are used to assess your impressions of the deer population, hunting pressure, and hunter satisfaction. This information is also used to develop management direction and hunting season structure. Your response is important regardless of how much or where you hunted. Even if you didn't hunt at all, providing that information is important to proper deer management. Please report only on your hunting experiences in Wisconsin, not those of other members of your party or family or friends.

Reverse the flap on the questionnaire when you are finished and tape the edge and mail. Using your stamp will save DNR funds for wildlife management although no postage is required to return the questionnaire. Your cooperation is appreciated and will help us continue the long tradition of quality deer hunting in Wisconsin.

Sincerely,

Keith Warnke
Big Game Specialist
Bureau of Wildlife Management

<p>1. What areas of the state did you gun deer hunt in? (Please check ALL that apply.) (See Map)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Intensive Harvest Zone <input type="checkbox"/> Herd Reduction Zone <input type="checkbox"/> Outstate (in the rest of the state) <input type="checkbox"/> Did not hunt</p>	<p>11. The Wisconsin DNR's plan to eliminate CWD in the deer herd has been: (Check only one)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Not aggressive enough <input type="checkbox"/> About right <input type="checkbox"/> Too aggressive <input type="checkbox"/> I don't know enough about the plan to have an opinion</p>
<p>2. What type(s) of hunting license(s) did you purchase for your own use this season? (Please check ALL that apply.)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Sports <input type="checkbox"/> Small Game <input type="checkbox"/> Bear <input type="checkbox"/> Deer <input type="checkbox"/> Archery <input type="checkbox"/> Patron</p>	<p>12. If CWD were found in the area you currently hunt, what would you do? (Check only one)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Keep on hunting the area I currently hunt <input type="checkbox"/> Keep on hunting in Wisconsin, but move to an area that was CWD free <input type="checkbox"/> Give up deer hunting in Wisconsin, but hunt in another state <input type="checkbox"/> Give up all deer hunting</p>
<p>3. What is your county of residence?</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>13. What is your #1 concern about CWD in Wisconsin? (Check only one)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Potential effect of CWD on the deer herd <input type="checkbox"/> Potential effect of eating a CWD infected deer <input type="checkbox"/> Potential effect of CWD on my Wisconsin deer hunting <input type="checkbox"/> Potential effect of CWD on the Wisconsin economy</p>
<p>4. Did you hunt the early antlerless gun deer season in Zone T Units (Oct. 28-Oct. 31)? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p>14. Did you hunt the "Regular" 9-day gun deer season of Nov. 20-Nov. 28? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>5. Do you plan on hunting the late antlerless only deer season in Zone T Units (Dec. 9-12)? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p>If you answered NO, please stop here and return the survey.</p>
<p>6. Do you plan on hunting the extended seasons (Oct. 28 - Jan 3) in the Disease Eradication Zone? (See Map.) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p>15. How many days did you hunt during the 2004 "Regular" 9-day gun deer season? (Do not include days hunted during the early antlerless only or muzzleloader seasons.)</p> <p>_____</p>
<p>7. Do you plan on hunting the extended seasons (Nov. 20 - Jan. 3) in the Herd Reduction Zone? (See Map.) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p>16. How many antlerless deer permits did you receive this season?</p> <p>_____</p>
<p>8. If your unit is a special antlerless deer unit next year, would you shoot an antlerless deer? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p>17. How many deer did you register during the 2004 "Regular" 9-day gun deer hunting season of Nov. 20 - Nov. 28?</p> <p>_____ antlered _____ antlerless (does)</p>
<p>9. Do you plan on hunting the 2004 muzzleloader season which immediately follows the 2004 "Regular" 9-day gun deer season? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	
<p>10. With CWD in Wisconsin's deer herd, how concerned are you currently about the health of the deer herd? (Check only one)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Not at all concerned <input type="checkbox"/> Slightly concerned <input type="checkbox"/> Moderately concerned <input type="checkbox"/> Extremely concerned</p>	

Figure 2. 2004 Gun deer hunter questionnaire.

17a. If you hunted deer with a gun during the **"Regular"** 9-day deer season, fill in the table below.

Write in the management unit number for each day you hunted. (See Map.) If you hunted in more than one unit on a given day, list only the unit in which you spent the most time. Also, please specify the type of land on which you hunted.

REGULAR SEASON

Date 2004	Unit Number	Private	Public	Industrial	Forest Tax
Nov. 20 (Sat.)	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nov. 21 (Sun.)	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nov. 22 (Mon.)	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nov. 23 (Tues.)	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nov. 24 (Wed.)	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nov. 25 (Thurs.)	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nov. 26 (Fri.)	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nov. 27 (Sat.)	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nov. 28 (Sun.)	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

18. If you hunted privately-owned land on **OPENING DAY** of gun deer season, how did you obtain access to the land? **(Check only one)**

(1) ☐ I own the land.
 (2) ☐ I lease the land.
 (3) ☐ I hunted land owned by a relative or member of my family.
 (4) ☐ I hunted on a friend's or neighbor's land.
 (5) ☐ I obtained permission from a non-related landowner.
 (6) ☐ I hunted unposted private land.
 (7) ☐ Other (please describe): _____

19. In your hunting area, how have deer numbers changed from the last year? **(Check only one)**

(1) ☐ Deer numbers went up
 (2) ☐ Deer numbers went down
 (3) ☐ About the same
 (4) ☐ I did not hunt the same areas as last year
 (5) ☐ Unsure

20. Overall, how would you rate the quality of your 2004 **"Regular"** 9-day gun deer hunt? **(Check only one)**

(1) ☐ Very High (4) ☐ Fairly Low
 (2) ☐ Fairly High (5) ☐ Very Low
 (3) ☐ About Average

21. Please rate the factors that most influence your perception of a "quality" deer hunt. Enter a value of 1 to 7 next to each statement, with "1" having the most effect and "7" having the least effect on a "quality" hunting experience.

_____ An opportunity to kill a deer
 _____ Seeing deer
 _____ Seeing bucks
 _____ Weather
 _____ Not seeing other hunters
 _____ Spending time with friends and family
 _____ Killing a deer

22. Did you pass on shooting a legal buck?
☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, what factors entered into your decision?

(1) ☐ Too small
 (2) ☐ Deer not in a safe direction for shot
 (3) ☐ Concerned over deer diseases
 (4) ☐ Not allowed to by Earn-a-Buck rules
 (5) ☐ Deer not positioned for sure shot
 (6) ☐ Did not want more venison
 (7) ☐ Equipment malfunction

23. What factors, if any, limited the number of antlerless deer you shot this fall?

(1) ☐ Limited by the landowner
 (2) ☐ Cost of deer processing
 (3) ☐ Not enough freezer space
 (4) ☐ Did not want any more deer
 (5) ☐ No place to donate the deer
 (6) ☐ Opposed to shooting does and fawns
 (7) ☐ Did not want to reduce the deer herd anymore
 (8) ☐ Not enough time to hunt
 (9) ☐ Did not see any more deer
 (10) ☐ None

24. How many deer do you and your immediate family usually eat in one year? _____

25. Did you hunt in one of the 26 counties that had a ban on bait?
☐ Yes ☐ No

What effect, if any, did the ban on bait have on your hunt? **(Check only one)**

(1) ☐ Positive- deer moving more naturally
 (2) ☐ Neutral - little bait is used where I hunt regardless of the ban
 (3) ☐ Neutral- area used to be baited, but didn't affect me
 (4) ☐ Negative- I was not as successful as when baiting was legal
 (5) ☐ No change- area still baited (illegally)

(Note: you will **NOT** be contacted about this.)

26. Did you submit a deer head for Chronic Wasting Disease testing?

(1) ☐ No
 (2) ☐ Yes, through the DNR sampling process
 (3) ☐ Yes, through a veterinarian

27. On a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being the best and 1 being the worst, rate your overall satisfaction with deer hunting in Wisconsin?

Circle One:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Figure 2. 2004 Gun deer hunter questionnaire (continued).